

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-9 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants are amending claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8. As a result, claims 1-9 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 5 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that the omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the polarized light separation means, the first polarization direction changing means and the second polarization direction changing means. In particular, the Office Action asserts that claims 1 and 5 recite a “second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of the polarized light separation means” which the Office Action asserts is unworkable. Furthermore, the Office Action asserts that if a polarization direction changing means is placed after light passes through a polarized light separation means, the polarization direction changing means contributes no effect to the viewing selection.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the aforementioned assertions, and would like to note for the record that claims 1 and 5, as presented in the previous amendment, clearly define the structural relationship between the polarized light separation means, the first polarization direction changing means, and the second polarization direction changing means. Claims 1 and 5 clearly define the eyeglass structure, irrespective of whether the elements function simultaneously. Specifically, MPEP §2172.01 points out that “A claim does not necessarily fail to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph where the various elements do not function simultaneously, are not directly functionally related, do not directly intercooperate, and/or serve independent purposes.”

Nevertheless, for the purpose of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 to indicate that the polarizing eyeglass device is adaptable for use in a plurality of

arrangements to ensure compatibility with a plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus. To ensure compatibility, both the first and second polarization direction changing means are integral to the polarizing eyeglass device being adaptable for use in a plurality of arrangements to ensure compatibility with said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus.

The Office Action also asserts that the specification fails to teach how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means leftwardly and rightwardly or forwardly and backwardly makes the device operable. For clarification, the Applicants respectfully note that the specification indicates that the eyeglass device can be used in a number of service conditions (as shown in Fig. 6 to 9), referred to as service conditions A, B, C and D. (page 25, lines 17-21). The specification also describes the operation of the eyeglass device in these different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8). In addition, the specification indicates how numerous reversing mechanisms may be utilized to place the eyeglass device into a desired service condition (page 38, lines 2-5).

Since, the specification explains the functioning of the eyeglass device in different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8), and also describes how reversing the front and rear positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means allows for the eyeglass device to be placed in different service conditions (page 39, lines 3-15), the specification does indeed describe how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means forwardly and backwardly makes the eyeglass device operable.

Also, since the specification explains the functioning of the eyeglass device in different service conditions (page 25 line 22 – page 32 line 8), and also describes how reversing the left and right positions of the first and second polarization direction changing means allows for the eyeglass device to be placed in different service conditions (page 40, line 23 – page 41, line 13), the specification does indeed describe how reversing the first and second polarization direction changing means leftwardly and rightwardly makes the eyeglass device operable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-4, 5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT publication WO 95/00872 ("Rosencwaig"). Applicants respectfully disagree, but for the purposes of advancing prosecution have amended claims 1 and 5.

Applicants would like to note for the record that Rosencwaig is completely silent as to a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means. The Office Action asserts that since the second polarization direction changing means does not supposedly affect the operation of the polarizing eyeglasses in the viewing of the stereoscopic vision, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to add an additional optical element that does not effect the function. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As noted previously, the second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of the polarized light separation means does serve a function, even though it may not affect the polarized light passing through. The first and second polarization direction changing means allow for compatibility of the eyeglass device with different types of stereoscopic image display apparatus (page 34, lines 15-18 and page 57, lines 7-10). Specifically, via the choice of the eyeglass device service condition, the eyeglass device may be compatible with the type of stereoscopic image display apparatus (Fig. 11 and 27). Hence, the second polarization direction changing means enables the compatibility of the eyeglass device with different types of stereoscopic image displays.

Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended to further prosecution, is directed to a polarizing eyeglass device for use with a plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus. The polarizing eyeglass device comprising a polarized light separation means for separating particular polarized light, said polarized light separation means including a first viewing region to be used for viewing with one of a left eye and a right eye and a second viewing region to be used for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, a first polarization direction changing means adhered to a first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region, and a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said

polarized light separation means in the second viewing region. The polarizing eyeglass device adaptable for use in a plurality of arrangements to ensure compatibility with said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus, wherein each of said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus are such that the first areas of said image display screen are intended for displaying pieces of image information intended for viewing with one of the left eye and the right eye, the second areas of said image display screen are intended for displaying pieces of image information intended for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, and said polarizing plate has a polarization angle along a first or second direction, wherein the first direction is different from the second direction.

Applicants note that Rosencwaig is also completely silent as to a polarizing eyeglass device adaptable for use in a plurality of arrangements to ensure compatibility with a plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Rosencwaig and is in allowable condition.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claim 3 and 4 have been amended to clarify how the reversing mechanism alters the arrangement of the first polarization direction changing means and the second polarization direction changing means, and have not been amended for the purpose of overcoming the rejection.

Claim 5

Claim 5, as amended to further prosecution, is directed to a polarizing eyeglass device for use with a plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus. The polarizing eyeglass device comprising a polarized light separation means for separating particular polarized light, said polarized light separation means including a first viewing region to be used for viewing with one of a left eye and a right eye and a second viewing region to be used for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, a first polarization direction changing means adhered to a first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region or the second viewing region, and a second polarization direction changing means adhered to a second face opposite to the first face of said polarized light separation means in the first viewing region or the second viewing region to which said first polarization direction changing means is adhered.

The polarizing eyeglass device adaptable for use in a plurality of arrangements to ensure compatibility with said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus, wherein each of said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus are such that the first areas of said image display screen are intended for displaying pieces of image information intended for viewing with one of the left eye and the right eye, the second areas of said image display screen are intended for displaying pieces of image information intended for viewing with the other one of the left eye and the right eye, and said polarizing plate has a polarization angle along a first or second direction, wherein the first direction is different from the second direction.

Applicants note that Rosencwaig is also completely silent as to a polarizing eyeglass device adaptable for use in a plurality of arrangements to ensure compatibility with said plurality of stereoscopic image display apparatus. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 5 patentably distinguishes over Rosencwaig and is in allowable condition.

Claims 6-9 depend from claim 5 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to clarify how the reversing mechanism alters the arrangement of the first polarization direction changing means and the second polarization direction changing means, and have not been amended for the purpose of overcoming the rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/656,829
Conf. No.: 8415

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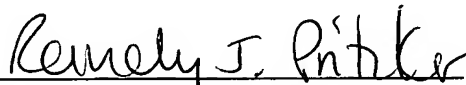
Art Unit: 2872

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: S1459.70062US00
Date: March 28, 2005
x03/27/05x